

Major-General G. M. Dodge

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secured amounted to a car load and all arrived safe at Iowa City. This was probably the largest amount of marine natural history specimens ever shipped at one time into the interior of the United States.

MAJOR-GENERAL G. M. DODGE.

BY EX-GOV. CYRUS C. CARPENTER.

(Concluded from October Number.)

During the progress of the events which closed the chapter in the last number of *THE ANNALS*, General Grant wrote to General Sherman a letter, from which the following is an extract:

"It is not my intention to have any portion of your army to guard roads in the Department of the Cumberland, when an advance is made, and particularly not Dodge, who has been kept constantly in that duty since he was subject to my orders. He is too valuable an officer to be anywhere except in front, and one that you can rely upon in any and every emergency."

In conformity with this opinion, in March, 1864, he wrote General Halleck suggesting that Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas be added to the Department of the Gulf and that General Dodge be assigned to the command, with a view of increasing the order and efficiency of the Department, and also moving against Mobile. But as General Sherman was about to begin the Atlanta campaign he was unwilling to spare him from the command of the Sixteenth Corps. Accordingly on the 29th of April, General Sweeney, commanding the Second Division, moved from Pulaski, Tennessee, and General Veatch, commanding the Fourth Division, moved from Decatur, Alabama, with orders to concentrate at Huntsville. From Huntsville the two divisions marched eastward towards Stevenson until May 4, when they embarked on the cars for Chattanooga, the Second Division at Larkinsville and the Fourth at Woodville. The transportation and artillery, under escort of Colonel J. J. Phillips, 9th Illinois Mounted Infantry, and a portion of the 1st Alabama Cavalry moved by the wagon road to Chattanooga *via* Bridgeport. General Dodge and his com-

mand reached Chattanooga May 5, and marched out and bivouacked at Gordon's Mills, on Chickamauga Creek. The Rebel army, under Johnston, was at Dalton, a station on the railroad connecting Chattanooga and Atlanta, about thirty miles southeast of Chattanooga. Dalton is located on the south side of a gap in a spur of the mountain through which the railroad passes. As a military position it is almost impregnable by nature, and had been made still stronger by the art of the engineer. Against this position General Thomas, in command of the Army of the Cumberland of 45,000 men, marched, as if intending an assault directly from the front. General Schofield, in command of the Army of the Ohio, marched east of the railroad, forming the left wing of the entire army.

From Gordon's Mills running south is a valley between Missionary Ridge and Chickamauga Hill. Along this valley, securely veiled from the observation of Johnston, marched the Army of the Tennessee, General Dodge with the 16th Corps having the advance. At midnight of the 6th of May, his advance, General Sprague's Brigade, occupied Ship's Gap, a narrow defile between Taylor's ridge and Chickamauga Hill; and on the 8th arrived at Snake Creek Gap, a narrow passage cutting through Chattanooga Mountain, another spur of the main ridge. The passage through this gap necessitated a left wheel of the army from its southern course to the east. The *debouche* opened into the valley of the Oostenaula, along which ran the railroad from Dalton south, and at the intersection of the road with the river was the town of Resaca. This gap was found almost undefended, so that the Army of the Tennessee had nearly reached the railroad, twenty miles in Johnston's rear, while his attention was entirely directed to guarding against Thomas and Schofield in his front. On the morning of the 9th, at six o'clock, General Dodge moved in line of battle for Resaca and the railroad. The ground over which he passed made the distance some seven miles. He advanced steadily until he arrived at the Calhoun and Dalton cross roads, one mile west of Resaca. From this point the enemy

in line of battle could be distinctly seen on a bald hill west of Resaca, and behind his defenses in the town. General Dodge, with the Second Division, drove the enemy from his position and took possession of the bald hill. Here General McPherson came forward and ordered him to hold the cross roads and Bald Hill with the Second Division until the arrival of the Fifteenth Corps; and with the Fourth Division, which was on the left, feel to the north for the railroad. He had sent Captain DeHues, with eighteen cavalry troopers, his headquarters scouts and his only available cavalry, to the left, with orders to reach the railroad if possible; while with the Fourth Division, under General Veatch, with Fuller's Brigade in advance, he crossed Mill Creek north of Resaca, moved across a field in plain sight of the town, and within range of the enemy's guns, gaining the woods northeast of the field, his skirmishers being in plain sight of the railroad, when the enemy opened a fire immediately upon the right of Fuller's Brigade. General Dodge was with the advance, and immediately ordered Fuller to charge this battery. Whilst he was making his dispositions to execute this order, General McPherson sent an order for him to fall back across the field and to the west side of Mill Creek. By the time this order was executed, under a galling fire of the enemy, it was dark. General McPherson now ordered a countermarch to the mouth of Snake Creek Gap, where the Army of the Tennessee was entrenching its position. The following quotation from General Sherman's Memoirs will give his views of this day's operations:

"McPherson had startled Johnston in his fancied security, but had not done the full measure of his work. He had in hand twenty-three thousand of the best men in the army, and could have walked into Resaca (then held by a small brigade), or he could have placed his whole force astride the railroad above Resaca, and there could have easily withstood the attack of all Johnston's army, with the knowledge that Thomas and Schofield were at his heels. Had he done so, I am certain that Johnston would not have ventured to attack him in position, but would have retreated eastward by Spring Place, and we should have captured half his army and all his artillery and wagons at the very beginning of the campaign.

"Such an opportunity does not occur twice in a single life, but at the critical moment McPherson seems to have been a little timid; still, he was jus-

tified by his orders, and fell back and assumed an unassailable defensive position in Sugar Valley, on the Resaca side of Snake Creek Gap. As soon as informed of this, I determined to pass the whole army through Snake Creek Gap, and to move on Resaca with the main army."

Of course the events of this day were freely discussed in the army; and in this connection an incident occurred at General Dodge's head-quarters which illustrates his loyalty to his commanding officer and his fidelity to a friend. There is no doubt that he thought General McPherson had missed a great opportunity, in not throwing his army across the railroad, intrenching, and holding it against all comers. But observing the etiquette of a soldier he said nothing. Colonel Spencer, his Chief of Staff, however, had a habit of criticising freely and profanely all officers who in his judgment were not up to the standard. And on this occasion he was rather outspoken in his criticism, including General McPherson in his uncomplimentary review of events. General Dodge at first did not seem to notice the Colonel's remarks; but finally there was a little more than he could stand, and he said: "You have a free way of criticising every officer in the service who has any enterprise; who the devil does have any sense in your estimation?" Spencer hung his head, with a sort of expression which seemed to imply: "I give it up!" but after a moment's hesitation, said: "Old Billy Sherman." "Well," says Dodge, "I am devilish glad there is one man in the army who knows something even in *your* opinion." This ended further criticisms at General Dodge's headquarters.

In the subsequent operations of the army in the vicinity of Resaca and Lay's Ferry, across the Oostenaula, General Dodge and his command were actively engaged, most of the time in the extreme front, or on the exposed flank. The Fourth Division under General Veatch was engaged in the final movements on Resaca. The Second Brigade under Colonel Sprague made a gallant charge upon the enemy, and the First Brigade performed gallant service in protecting the right flank of the Fifteenth Corps. At Lay's Ferry the Second Division under General Sweeney crossed the river and laid a pontoon bridge. In

the movements connected with the crossing of the Oostenaula and securing possession of the road leading to Adairsville, which really led to the evacuation of Resaca by the enemy, the brigade of Colonel E. W. Rice and Colonel P. E. Burke, who fell mortally wounded, of the Second Division, and Colonel M. M. Bane, commanding a brigade of the Fourth Division, performed feats of valor not excelled during the campaign. In these movements they were under the eye and immediate direction of General Dodge, as he had a habit, when marching in the face of the enemy, of keeping near the skirmish line. The enemy being swept from his front, the flank movement continued, and after two nights and one day of almost constant marching General Dodge with his command entered Kingston. Here the Army of the Tennessee remained until the 23d of May.

On the 22d of May, 1864, at the special request of Generals Grant and Sherman, General Dodge was appointed a Major-General, and the notice of his promotion reached him while at Kingston. During the time he commanded at Corinth and Pulaski it had been his fortune to execute the verdicts of more than one court martial, which had been convened to try persons captured as spies and guerrillas, and when convicted he unhesitatingly executed the orders of the courts martial. There is a story told that when President Lincoln was examining the recommendations of Dodge with the view to promoting him to be Major-General, he said: "Let's see; this is the General who orders men shot and then sends the proceedings of the court martial to the War Department for my approval." Then after a moment's reflection he said, "Well, I don't know as that disqualifies him from being a Major-General." In this connection it might not be out of place to relate another incident, although it anticipates by a few months the time of its occurrence. After General Dodge had been placed in command of the Department of Missouri, he captured some of Quantrell's men who were engaged in the bloody massacre of defenseless men, women and children at Lawrence, Kansas. He summoned a court martial for their trial. Of course the Rebels

and Copperheads in Missouri were greatly exercised at these proceedings, as their sympathies were with the murderers. So they sent a delegation to Washington to labor with Lincoln to get him to stop the proceedings. It resulted in leading the President to write a friendly letter to Dodge commending his vigorous and just administration of the Department, and suggesting that inasmuch as these men, supposed to be outlaws, were being tried by court martial, it might be well, if they should be convicted, before shooting them, to give them the benefit of all the forms and of any doubts, by sending the proceedings of the court for review to the War Department.

Returning now to the movements of the army, the Sixteenth Army Corps moved from Kingston towards Dallas on the 23d of May, and after three days and two nights of almost constant marching, the corps, led by its commander, came promptly into position on the Pumpkin Vine Creek, from which point the Army of the Tennessee moved upon Dallas. From that time there was incessant skirmishing and fighting in the vicinity of Dallas and New Hope Church, up to the 1st of June. Several desperate charges were made upon Dodge's lines, and upon the earthworks behind which the army lay entrenched, but at no time did the enemy succeed in moving Dodge or his command a single inch. On June 1 the flank movement was continued. The Sixteenth Corps made a most difficult and dangerous move in face of the enemy, to Ackworth, from which point it formed the rear guard of the army to Big Shanty. The enemy, after several days skirmishing and one or two quite severe engagements, evacuated their works near Big Shanty and fell back to Kenesaw Mountain. This position was by nature a strong line of defense, and had been made doubly so by the skill of the military engineer. Here, after several days heavy skirmishing and various military maneuvers, adopted with the hope of drawing the enemy out of his position, General Sherman attempted to take the enemy's works by a direct charge from the front. It was unsuccessful, and was one of the movements for which General Sherman, in his Memoirs, criticises himself. In this final charge the

64th Illinois Infantry, deployed as skirmishers, were particularly heroic. They ascended the mountain in face of a deadly fire, and against almost insurmountable obstructions, gained a position so near the enemy's works as to be unable to leave when the retreat was ordered until darkness enabled them to creep out from under the enemy's guns unobserved. Three or four of the regiment were killed upon the enemy's works, and several within a few yards of the ditch in their front. On the morning of July 2, it was found that Johnston had evacuated his works on Kenesaw Mountain, and again the old story was repeated. The army pushed forward in pursuit to find him, as usual, a few miles further on, strongly intrenched. Thus, on July 4, the Sixteenth Army Corps encountered Hood's entire corps at Ruff's Mills, on Nick-a-Jack Creek. They carried his first line of works, capturing some one hundred prisoners. Then the enemy continued his retreat to the Chattahoochie, whilst skirmishing, as heretofore, unceasing, filled the air with its unwelcome music. On the 9th of July, General Dodge, with his command moved to the Sandtown and Marietta road, passing through Marietta *en route* for Roswell. The march to Roswell, about thirty-one miles, was accomplished in less than two days under a most scorching sun. General Sherman had urged celerity, as he feared the enemy might occupy the bluffs on the south side of the river, from which it would be difficult to dislodge him. The energy and patience of the troops on this march, and the alacrity with which they intrenched their position, after gaining the south side of the river, was a fine illustration of what the veteran soldier will accomplish uncomplainingly when led by a determined and resolute commander. Here in the space of two days General Dodge built a bridge 710 feet long, spanning the Chattahoochie River, over which the Army of the Tennessee and all its trains and artillery passed, dry-shod, a day or two after. The command remained at Roswell until the morning of July 17, when it again moved. General Dodge was ordered to march between the Seventeenth and Twenty-third Corps. This necessitated one of those achievements which frequently

fell to the lot of portions of the army when moving in supporting distance of other commands. The Seventeenth Corps occupied a road on the left, and a few miles to the right was another road running almost parallel, upon which the Twenty-third Corps was moving. So that the Sixteenth Corps had to cut its own road through heavy timber, bridge streams and corduroy swamps. It steadily worked its way, of course, at the cost of toil and effort, which no man can estimate who has not had a like experience. And in addition to this, there was the constant skirmish with the enemy, sometimes necessitating the deployment of a part of the command in line of battle and bringing the artillery into play. Finally, on the 19th of July, Decatur, six miles north of Atlanta, was reached and occupied. The Twenty-third Army Corps moving upon an old wagon road, and the Sixteenth Corps cutting its own road, entered the town of Decatur at the same time. About 1 o'clock p. m., of the 20th, the Army of the Tennessee, with the exception of the Second Brigade of the Fourth Division, General Sprague commanding, which was left at Decatur to guard trains, moved toward Atlanta. On the morning of the 21st General Fuller, with the First Brigade of the Fourth Division, moved to a position near the left and in the rear of the Seventeenth Corps, as a reserve. The Second Division confronted the enemy with its right connecting with the Twenty-third and its left with the Fifteenth Corps. During the 21st it advanced its lines three-quarters of a mile nearer to Atlanta, and at 4 o'clock a. m. on the 22d it was discovered that the enemy had fallen back from his outer defenses and was occupying a new line near the city. On this discovery the Army of the Tennessee made an advance, which so shortened the lines of approach to the city that the Second Division, Sixteenth Corps, was thrown out of position. General Dodge was therefore ordered to move to the left of the Seventeenth Corps, which then occupied the extreme left of the army, and take and fortify a position upon the left flank. General Fuller with a portion of the Fourth Division was then in the rear of the Seventeenth Corps. The Second

Division moved during the forenoon along a road which followed a ridge almost parallel with the line of the Seventeenth Corps, and about three-quarters of a mile to its rear. At noon the head of the column halted near a farm house, from which the road gradually descended some 300 yards, when it entered a heavily timbered plat of low ground. Through these woods it would be necessary to pass, to reach the position the corps was to occupy. The men, as usual when halting at midday, made preparations to boil coffee and take a lunch. General Dodge, accompanied by General Fuller and one or two staff officers, had gone to the headquarters of General Blair to consult about the position the Sixteenth was to occupy on his left, and had also ridden over the ground and selected the line which he proposed to intrench. As General Blair, however, had determined not to make the changes in his line which were contemplated, until the next day, General Dodge resolved to bivouac with his command on or near the ground it then occupied. With this purpose he rode back to his command. When passing General Fuller's headquarters, as a lunch was just prepared, he stopped to dine with Fuller. He had sent word to General Sweeney to select proper ground upon which to bivouac for the night. He was scarcely seated at the table before the pickets in the woods a short distance in front began a brisk skirmish fire. This startled the entire command. It seemed impossible that there could be an enemy so far in the rear of the main line occupied by the Seventeenth Corps. Between the ridge along which the Sixteenth Corps had been marching and the line occupied by the Seventeenth Corps was a narrow valley through which ran a small stream. From the ridge occupied by the Sixteenth Corps down to this stream was a gradual descent through an open field. Crossing the little stream, there was a gradual ascent up to the bald hill occupied by Leggett's division of the Seventeenth Corps. The surface of this ascent had once been cleared, but was now largely grown up to a second growth of pine trees. In the little valley formed by the stream were the trains of the various headquarters, ambulances, teams, teamsters' quar-

ters, etc. The house and out-buildings near which the head of the column had halted, occupied the most elevated ground on which the Second Division were resting and awaiting orders. The Rebels so completely veiled from sight in the timber just in front of this column were General Hardee's corps of Hood's army. Of course the meeting at this point of Dodge and Hardee was a mutual surprise. Hardee had made such progress without being discovered, that he hoped to sweep along the entire rear of the Army of the Tennessee—destroy the trains, and possibly, to some extent, demoralize the entire army. Dodge of course had no idea that the Rebels had made a night march around Blair's left flank, and were now well advanced in his rear. As soon as the skirmish firing commenced, however, General Dodge divined the situation. He sprang from the table, called for his horse, saying: "There is a fight on hand"; and to Fuller, "Get your division in position for action." He immediately rode to the Second Division, talked a moment with Sweeney, and then rode along the entire line, readjusting it in places where his quick eye saw ground better suited to defense and protection. The men in less than twenty minutes were in position; and with the instinct of veterans, were utilizing every rail from the fences which bounded the road, and were tearing down the out-houses and negro quarters, mostly built of logs, at the adjoining farm house, and throwing up such slight defenses as were possible in the short time and with the limited material at command. It was a scene of wild turmoil, and yet there was a purpose in every movement. Men were carrying rails and logs to make their rude and temporary defenses. Batteries were being hurried into position; headquarter teams and ambulances were being driven to the rear; officers were riding along the line and directing the movement of the men; staff officers were riding to Dodge and reporting the situation at different points on the field; and occasionally a Rebel shell or solid shot, screeching overhead, was giving notice of the havoc which was approaching. In such a time as this, coming at an unexpected moment, the commanding officer who

"*keeps his head,*" unless he loses it legitimately by shot or shell, is a soldier with attributes suited to his business. General Dodge kept his head. He seemed to comprehend and have in mind the whole situation. He knew from the nature of the ground that his right would not extend far enough to unite with the left of the Seventeenth Corps, and that a gap would intervene between the two corps. At the very outset of his preparations for battle, he sent an aid, Lieutenant Jonas, to notify General Giles A. Smith, who commanded the division on the left of the Seventeenth Corps, of the situation, with the suggestion that he refuse his left to meet Fuller, who commanded the right of the Sixteenth Corps. He ordered the writer to go with haste to Decatur, four miles in the rear, where General Sprague, commanding a brigade, was guarding the supply train of the Army of the Tennessee, and tell him that the enemy was on the left flank and rear of the army, and would be after him. And by the way, this is the same General Sprague who, as Colonel Sprague, commanded the Sixty-third Ohio, which lay under the guns of Fort Robinet at Corinth, and who in view of the impending charge, walked along the line of his regiment, telling his men not to fire until he gave the command, to wait until the Rebels came so near they could see the white in their eyes, and then up and at them; and it was he who ordered the final bayonet charge that day, which swept the Rebels off the ground and back to the timber. The writer started to obey the order, but had not ridden two miles before he was convinced by the fire of musketry and artillery at Decatur that General Sprague had been notified that the Rebels were in our rear. General Wheeler with two divisions of Rebel cavalry had ridden straight for the trains at Decatur. But the lion-hearted hero, Sprague, drew out his little brigade, and placed it in front of the trains, and for three hours held the Rebels at bay, until the result of the contest in front of Atlanta made it necessary for Wheeler to retreat.

In the meantime Hardee's corps, which confronted General Dodge, moved out of the woods and pushed forward upon the open field under cover of the Rebel batteries, which were con-

cealed in the edge of the timber. They were met unflinchingly by the Sixteenth Corps. The infantry steadily and effectively poured volley after volley into the advancing columns, whilst the Fourteenth Ohio and Welker's batteries, in position on the high ground, at the right of the road, mowed down terrible swaths in their ranks. One assault after another was attempted until from sheer exhaustion they fell back to the timber and gave up the battle. When Hardee struck the Sixteenth Corps the remainder of Hood's army came out of their intrenchments at Atlanta and attacked the Fifteenth and Seventeenth corps in their intrenchments. General Giles A. Smith's and General Leggett's divisions of the Seventeenth Corps had a desperate hand-to-hand fight. Owing to the fact that the open space between the Sixteenth and Seventeenth corps could not be filled in the heat of the engagement, the enemy were in front and rear of Smith and Leggett, so that they sometimes fought from one side of their earthworks, and sometimes from the other. But as the writer does not pretend to give a full account of the battle—only that part taken in it by General Dodge—no details are given in respect to the other corps.

There was one thing which tempered the rejoicing that usually follows victory, with deep and lasting sadness in the Army of the Tennessee. And that was the death of General McPherson. He was young. He was handsome. He was genial. He was brave. And he was patriotic. He was an ideal soldier. His death brought to every soldier in the Army of the Tennessee a personal sorrow. In some respects this was the most remarkable battle fought during the Rebellion. The Rebels had the advantage which comes from being the attacking force. Hardee's corps, which fought Dodge, was at least three times greater than the Sixteenth Corps. They had the advantage of a timber covering in which to perform their evolutions. And yet the Sixteenth Corps met them on the open field, with both flanks exposed and enveloped by the enemy, and with no protection but the few rails gathered hastily from the neighboring fences, and swept them back to cover, severely whipped. For a desperate stand up fight it was not excelled during the war.

The Sixteenth Corps again on the 26th of July drew out of its works and moved toward the right of the army. This movement was continued on the 28th, reinforcing the Fifteenth Corps during the engagement of that day. From this time on there were constant movements, feeling further and further to the right, in the direction of the Macon Railroad, and drawing nearer and nearer to the city. Every foot of ground gained was at the cost of skirmish and battle, and every foot of advanced position held was at the cost of throwing up new earthworks and erecting new fortifications. Finally, on the 19th of August, while General Dodge was engaged in superintending the preparations for charging and taking a detached fortification of the enemy, he was severely wounded in the forehead. He had gone into the rifle pits some distance in front of the fortifications, where he could get a closer view of the enemy's works. Captain H. I. Smith,* of the Seventh Iowa Infantry, was in command on the line of rifle pits. The General was looking through one of the peep-holes in the works when the ball, striking on the side of the forehead and ranging upward and around under the scalp, came very near ending the career of as earnest and as true a man as the war produced, and an able and enterprising officer. The feeling in his army corps, when the fact of his being wounded was heard, showed the high estimation in which he was held, and his established place in the confidence and good-will of the soldiers. On August 24, 1864, he was removed to the North. His farewell words to the Sixteenth Army Corps will close this part of his military career:

HEAD QUARTERS, LEFT WING, 16TH ARMY CORPS,

NEAR ATLANTA, GEORGIA, August 24, 1864.

Soldiers: It becomes necessary for me to relinquish my command for a short time. No one can regret this more than I do. Upon leaving you I cannot refrain from extending to you my heartfelt thanks for the efficient and brave manner in which you have supported me throughout this campaign. Whether on the battle-field, in the trenches, or on the march, you have given that earnest, zealous and efficient attention to your duties that always insures success.

*Captain Smith resides at this time (1894) at Mason City, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa.—Ed.

From Chattanooga to Atlanta, through a campaign unparalleled in its severity and its successes, you have done your full share; your comrades are buried on every field, and while we deeply mourn their loss we have the satisfaction of knowing that they fell nobly doing their duty. I leave you in the hands of able and tried commanders; give them the same cheerful support you have always given me, and there will be no fears of the result. I shall watch your course with the same interest; your victories will be mine. May God bless and protect you.

G. M. DODGE,

Major General.

The enforced absence of General Dodge from his command just as the purpose of the campaign was about to be realized was one of the severe disappointments of his life. He remained at his home, however, only long enough for the wound to heal, and partially to recover his usual strength, when he was again on the move. At the invitation of General Grant he visited his head-quarters at City Point. Here he spent several days. This was his first really intimate association with General Grant, and with that prince among men—his Chief of Staff—General Rawlins. At the suggestion of General Grant he visited the headquarters of the various army corps of the Army of the Potomac. And after spending a day with the officers of a corps he would return to City Point in the evening; where, with Generals Grant and Rawlins, he would sit out in front of their quarters until late at night talking over the affairs of the country, and especially discussing the probable movements and requirements of the Western armies. During his visit at City Point General Butler attempted an advance movement, General Dodge being present and witnessing the engagement which followed. Although it was reported in the telegraphic dispatches as a successful movement General Dodge dryly remarked that “out West it would have been regarded as a defeat.”

On leaving City Point he visited Washington. Here at the request of General Grant he called on President Lincoln, with whom he spent several hours, and by whom he was plied with questions as to his impressions of the Army of the Potomac and of his judgment respecting General Grant's final success. He replied that he believed the Army of the Potomac was the most thoroughly equipped and supplied of any army on the

planet, and that General Grant would capture Richmond and overthrow Lee if he was given time to carry out his plans.

Whilst at City Point General Grant had suggested to him that if it was agreeable to him he could give him an important command in the East. But to this suggestion Dodge unhesitatingly replied that his preferences were for service in the West. His old corps (the Sixteenth) having been broken up, after he left it, and merged into the Fifteenth and Seventeenth corps, General Grant had determined to give him a new and independent command. In subsequent years General Sheridan, in a conversation with Mr. N. E. Dawson, who was the stenographer and private secretary of General Grant on his trip through Mexico, told him that Grant had in mind the purpose of putting Dodge in command of a strong force with the view of penetrating the Rebel States and pushing to the sea-coast in a manner somewhat analogous to Sherman's famous march to the sea. But the subsequent movement of Hood in the direction of Tennessee, and Sherman's consequent plan to divide his army and send General Thomas into Tennessee with a part of it to take care of Hood, whilst he, with the remainder, should cut loose from his communications and march through Georgia to the sea, precluded the consummation of this purpose.

From Washington he went directly to Nashville and reported by telegraph to General Howard, commanding the Army of the Tennessee. In response he received an order from General Sherman to proceed to Vicksburg, where he was to combine such troops as were available and could be spared from the various military districts along the Mississippi, and move upon Mobile from the rear; not only with the view of capturing that important seaport, but also as a diversion in aid of General Sherman's march to the sea.

On arriving at Cairo, however, he received a counter order from Secretary Stanton directing him to repair to St. Louis and await further instructions from Washington. Soon after reaching St. Louis he received an order directly from the President, assigning him to the command of the Department

of Missouri from which General Rosecrans was relieved. Missouri was known as the graveyard of Generals. Here General Lyon had fallen in one of the most desperate pitched battles of the war. Here General Fremont had failed. General Hunter succeeded to the command and left it without adding to his fame. General Schofield had, to say the least, fallen short of success. And General Rosecrans had made little progress toward reducing the chaotic elements with which he had to deal to anything like order. General Dodge on assuming command found the military service greatly demoralized and the entire State overrun with guerrillas and marauders. With his usual activity and singleness of purpose he at once set to work to reorganize the various detachments of troops scattered over the State, into something like military system, and re-inspire them with something like military *morale*. But just as he began to get his command well in hand he received an order based upon the following request of General Grant:

CITY POINT, Virginia, Dec. 8, 1864.

To General Halleck, Washington, D. C.:

Please direct General Dodge to send all the troops he can spare to General Thomas. With such an order he can be relied on to send all that can properly go.

The high estimate placed upon the character of Dodge by Grant is shown in the foregoing dispatch. And its full force is better appreciated when interpreted by a letter from Grant to President Lincoln of about the same date. In this letter he advises that the departments of Missouri and Kansas be merged together. And he says: "This is advisable from the fact that as a rule only one point is threatened at a time, and if all that territory is commanded by one man, he can take troops from one point to satisfy the wants of another. With separate department commanders, they want to keep all they have and get all they can. This will not be the case with Dodge, who has been appointed to command Missouri." In accordance with the order of General Halleck, notwithstanding the disturbed condition of the department, and the scarcity of troops for effective service, he immediately sent fourteen

regiments of infantry and four regiments of cavalry to report to General Thomas at Nashville. They arrived and constituted a part of the force with which Thomas swept Hood from the front of Nashville and very nearly swept his army out of existence. Upon the departure of these troops Dodge found those remaining constituted but the skeleton of an army. As soon as he was able to equip and mount the cavalry which had been broken into small detachments, mostly dismounted and stationed in the various towns, merely to repel the raids of guerillas and marauders, he began to prepare for active operations.

General Dodge adopted a new policy. He was not the man to sit down and order a disposition of troops to defend a few towns and cities while the whole country outside was in a state of turmoil and danger. He ordered the troops out of the towns, instructed their officers to go into the brush and hunt down and exterminate every guerrilla. This change of tactics had a most wholesome effect. The guerrillas were now on the defensive and were hunting hiding places to save their necks, while the troops, inspired by the intense activity of their commander, were beating the bush and scouring the gorges of the hills to find them. As a complement to these active military operations he instructed the district commanders to encourage the revival of civil law and to aid in the establishment and protection of civil courts throughout the State wherever loyal civil officers could be found with a loyal sentiment back of them sufficiently strong to enforce order. This had a most salutary effect. He also found the prisons overflowing with political prisoners, with Federal soldiers imprisoned for trivial offenses, and with conscripts who had escaped from Price's army. He personally investigated thousands of individual cases, and when he was satisfied that there was no well-grounded cause for the arrest and imprisonment of these persons he ordered their release. In this manner he recruited his own depleted regiments, and revived a spirit of confidence in the justice of the military authorities which greatly enhanced a spirit of social order throughout the State.

One of the most effective methods which he adopted to develop civil order was by the encouragement of local organizations for the protection of life and property. He sought and obtained the authority of the Secretary of War to aid the local authorities in putting into the service several regiments of the Missouri State Militia. In this purpose he received the active co-operation of the local authorities in Missouri; and on the 26th of December, 1864, he was commissioned by Governor Hall, of Missouri, as Major-General of the Missouri State Militia.

An incident occurred about the time his policy of active operations against the guerrillas began to develop, which illustrates the spirit that animated many of those who sympathized with the Rebellion in Missouri. General Dodge had been out riding with his family in St. Louis, and having returned to the Lindell Hotel just at dark, left his family, and told the driver to proceed to his headquarters. He had gone but a short distance down one of the most frequented streets, when he was aroused by the sharp report of a gun at close range. The driver, who sat near his side and a little in front of him, fell against him. He caught the reins, and driving a short distance, secured help and medical attention for the driver, who had received a wound from which he died a day or two after. General Dodge had been warned that he was in danger of assassination, and had been advised not to drive or ride without an escort, but had disregarded these warnings, and now came very near losing his life. The driver had stopped the bullet intended for the Commander of the Department of Missouri.

On February 8, 1865, the Department of Kansas was merged into that of Missouri; Major-General Curtis being relieved. The union of Missouri and Kansas under one military head was partly in compliance with the wishes of Senator Lane, of Kansas. He supposed that as Curtis was the senior officer he would be appointed to the command, but General Grant, whose approval of the project finally determined the War Office to merge the two Departments into one, recommended

the appointment of Dodge. One of the reasons for this was the fact that the Indians were making serious trouble on the plains. They were killing and driving away the frontier settlers, and were especially active in robbing the mails, killing the passengers and plundering and destroying the stage stations on the overland route to the Pacific. In fact the Indians had become so bold and aggressive in their depredations, that they had in effect, for several months, levied an embargo upon the overland commerce between the States and California. Grant had suggested to Curtis the propriety of making a winter campaign against these hostile Indians. To this Curtis had objected and argued that it was impracticable. He had therefore written Dodge asking his opinion as to the practicability of a winter campaign on the plains. To this Dodge replied, emphatically approving it, as he well knew if it was deferred until the grass should grow, so that the Indians could subsist their horses away from the streams, that following them over the plains with a cumbersome military organization would be a fruitless chase. This, undoubtedly, was one of the reasons which influenced General Grant to urge the union of these two Departments under one commander, and that the commander should be Dodge. Immediately upon his being assigned to this command he proceeded to Fort Leavenworth and with his usual activity and enterprise began to make preparations for opening and defending the stage routes to California. He found the troops on the plains facing two enemies—the unprecedented cold weather and the hostile Indians. They had therefore cooped themselves up in block-houses at some of the stage stations and at other points where they could find wood, water and forage, whilst the Indians were moving along the stage lines, murdering, plundering and destroying telegraph lines, almost unopposed and unrestrained.

General Dodge immediately began to concentrate troops and supplies at the main points on the route, and cold as it was, opened a campaign against the Indians which in thirty days inspired the red rascals with a wholesome fear of attempting raids upon the stage lines, either of the Platte or Smoky Hill.

routes, and enabled the stage companies to renew their regular trips with comparative safety.

The hostility of the Indians, however, did not cease. The unrest of all the plains tribes seemed to have culminated in deadly hostility to the whites. The Arapahoes, Cheyennes, Comanches, Kiowas, Pawnees and Sioux, with two or three other small tribes, seemed to recognize the fact that the great overland stage lines, extending from the Missouri to the Pacific, with their attendant outfits of men, animals, stations and property, were but the vanguard of oncoming throngs of civilized men, to be followed by the steam engine, the railway, the plow and the seeder; and that their only hope of turning back this advancing tide was in rendering all their lines of travel and supply insecure and untenable. With this purpose in view they committed barbarities which left a trail of blood from Fort Kearney to the Rocky Mountain passes. General Dodge early protested against any attempt to make terms of peace with detached portions of these tribes; for while negotiations were in progress with one portion of a tribe, the remainder would very likely be on the war-path at some other point. He advocated the policy, as being one of mercy to the Indians as well as to the whites, of following them with relentless purpose and with the force and appliances of war, until they felt the power of the Government and came to understand that their only safety was in maintaining permanent peace. But in spite of his wishes and recommendations the Government insisted upon a temporizing policy which encouraged constant outbreaks all along the line from the British Possessions to the Red River of the South.

Whilst carrying on his operations against the hostile Indians, General Dodge was not indifferent to the progress of events in Missouri. Now that Lee had surrendered to Grant, and the Southern Confederacy had fallen to pieces, he felt that every armed organization which could be induced to surrender in form, accepting the terms given by Grant to Lee, would tend to encourage peaceful citizenship in every man who was included in the terms of the parole. Accordingly soon after:

the surrender of Lee he sent Colonel Davis of his command, under a flag of truce, to General M. Jeff Thompson (Rebel), who was then operating along the border between Missouri and Arkansas, proposing to him and his command the same terms accepted by Lee. On the 24th of June, 1865, Colonel Davis returned, having accomplished his mission, Thompson surrendering with 636 officers and 6,818 enlisted men. Large numbers of General Kirby Smith's men had also given themselves up, and all the organized companies of bushwhackers surrendered to the different military posts in Missouri; and peace and order once more reigned in this rebel-ridden and battle-stricken State.

General Dodge was now left at liberty to turn his entire attention to the final settlement of the Indian problem on the plains. On the 21st of July, 1865, he was assigned to the command of Kansas, Colorado, Utah, Nebraska, Montana, and all that portion of Dakota lying west and south of the Missouri River. In his official report of his operations in this extensive command he says: "I arrived here (Fort Leavenworth) and assumed command July 26, 1865, and in a few days thereafter started on the plains to make a personal inspection and examination of all troops, posts, routes, etc., within my command; to direct and improve on the ground such changes and dispositions as were deemed necessary; and to give my personal attention to matters generally. I proceeded from here to Fort Kearney, thence up the Platte, taking all intermediate posts and stations *en route* to Fort Laramie; thence to Powder River; thence to Denver *via* base of the mountains; and returned along the Smoky Fork of the Kansas River, and *via* Forts Ellsworth and Riley; reaching here on the 18th ultimo, having traveled with escort and train over 2,000 miles."

On the 18th of June preceding these events a band of some 300 Indians had attacked the stage line west of Fort Halleck, killing three soldiers and two citizens, and driving off the stock. So on the 1st of July General Dodge had ordered General Sanborn to move into the enemy's hiding places and fight him whenever and wherever found; to observe the laws

of civilized warfare, but to capture their villages and property and compel them to sue for peace. On the 29th of July 1,000 Indians attacked Platte Station. General Connor, after fighting them two days, drove them off badly punished; but with the loss to his command of Lieutenant Collins and twenty-five soldiers killed. And the singular feature of this business was that at this very time General Sanborn had been halted in his campaign by an order from General Pope, and was holding a conference with representatives from the Kiowas, Comanches, Arapahoes, Apaches and Cheyennes, with the view of treating for peace. The conference of General Sanborn with these southern bands of Indians resulted in an agreement for a future council to which the representatives present agreed to bring all the principal Indians of their tribes. Finally, on the 6th of November, a treaty was concluded between the southern Indians and the Commissioners of the Government.

As part of the general plan of the campaign, at the same time that General Sanborn was ordered to penetrate the Indian country from the southern border, General Patrick E. Connor was ordered to move north in three columns, to meet and punish the northern tribes in their chosen hunting grounds. From delays in receiving supplies and promised reinforcements his expedition was necessarily deferred several weeks, and finally when able to move, on reaching the Big Horn Mountains the fall storms had set in, impeding his march and increasing his risks and difficulties from inadequacy of forage and supplies. But notwithstanding all these discouraging circumstances he fought three battles, one of which, on Tongue River, in which he entirely destroyed an Arapahoe village, was one of the most decisive and effective victories of the year, and nearly broke the backbone of the Indian war. Colonel Cole, who commanded one of the columns of the expedition, prevented by storms and an imperfect knowledge of the country from forming a junction with the main command under Connor, turned south from the base of the Big Horn Mountains, and falling in with the Indians fleeing from Connor, again defeated and punished them most effectively.

After the severe punishment which the Indians received in this campaign of General Connor, the northern Sioux and Cheyennes sent their head men to General Dodge to ask for a cessation of hostilities, with the view of holding a council and settling terms of peace. The troops having discovered gold in the Black Hills, Dodge knew that no earthly power could prevent the invasion of the hills by the adventurous miner, and that unless there was a definite understanding as to boundaries, and a line established which would detach the Black Hills from Indian territory, any treaty would be but a temporary truce. He therefore tried to secure an agreement to the Belle Fourche Fork as the southern boundary of the Indian territory, but they insisted upon the Platte as such boundary, to which Dodge would not agree and the treaty was broken off. The Laramie Commission of 1866, which made terms of peace, agreed to the Platte as the southern boundary, and, as General Dodge had foreseen, the Black Hills were invaded by the miner and the emigrant, resulting in the Sitting Bull war.

Still there were hostile bands and small tribes, especially the Ogalalla Sioux, against whom it was necessary to guard the lines of travel. And when we consider that there were 2,600 miles of mail and telegraph lines to protect, besides carrying on these operations against the enemy, and that General Dodge was called upon to send an escort to accompany Colonel Sawyer and his party, who were surveying and opening a wagon road from Sioux City up the Niobrara *via* Fort Connor and the Big Horn Mountains to Virginia City, in Montana, which depleted his already meagre ranks by taking from them the companies of the 5th U. S. Volunteers with two howitzers, and their necessary transportation, and the brave and experienced Captain G. W. Williford who was sent in command, it gives us a faint idea of the immense field and various enterprises which demanded constant attention and oversight. Generals Heath, Upton, Wheaton and Col. Fleming, subordinate commanders, were kept on the alert. Platte and Alkali stations were attacked during the month of November before the ink upon the treaty signed by the southern tribes was scarcely dry.

General Dodge had felt from the beginning that there was but one course to follow in dealing with the Indians to secure permanent peace, and that was to whip them into submission. And when some of the southern tribes asked for a cessation of hostilities and proposed to meet commissioners to negotiate for peace, he believed it to be a ruse of a portion of these tribes to divert attention to themselves whilst the remainder were still robbing and plundering. As he had foreseen, the months of November and December, 1865, succeeding the peace negotiation on the Little Arkansas, were distinguished for the activity of the hostile bands of Indians. In one instance on the Laramie Plains they burned the soldiers in a train belonging to a Michigan cavalry company. Dodge himself accompanied the command of Major North, following their trail for three weeks until they had killed and captured the whole band. And whenever a raid was made upon the stage line or stage stations, they were uniformly followed and punished. Heath followed a marauding party south to the Republican River without wood or water for three days, and two days without rations, overhauled them and killed twenty-five or thirty of them. General Wheaton fought another band of marauders at Pole Creek Station and dispersed them. Colonel Fleming fought three hundred at Alkali Station, whipping and dispersing them. Eighty Indians attacked twenty of the United States Volunteers near Downers' Station and were repulsed with the loss of six killed and several wounded. On the same day another band attacked two stages loaded with passengers and escorted by a company of the 17th Illinois Cavalry, fifteen miles from Bluffton. The Indians were repulsed, and on the same day another band attacked Lieut.-Colonel Tamblyn and fifteen men, but were repulsed with loss. Some who came into the post were informed of the recent treaty and seemed satisfied, but went away and returned with reinforcements and renewed the attack. The Indians between the Arkansas River and the Smoky Hill route seemed disposed at first to accept the treaty, but soon began to attack the stations along the Smoky Hill route whenever they thought they could destroy

them or drive off the stock. General Elliott, commanding the District of Kansas, was ordered to follow and punish them. General Wheaton led an expedition against the Indians along the Republican, Beaver, Solomon and Saline Rivers in face of the severe weather of middle December. Colonel Brown, of the 12th Missouri Volunteers, led a scouting party from Cottonwood with the thermometer 18° below zero.

These details of active campaigning in the face of unmeasured difficulties might be continued, but they have been sufficiently extended to show the spirit of the commanding officer who directed and inspired them. No storm could dishearten him, the intensest cold never appalled him, no plain was too wide or too bleak or too deeply piled with drifted snow to turn him back from a pre-determined purpose; no mountain was too high for him to scale, and no foe so numerous or well equipped as to deter him from giving battle. They also illustrate to the traveler of to-day who rides across these plains in a palace car, the change wrought by a generation of resolute men.

Finally, on the 17th of January, 1866, the Sioux chieftains expressed a wish to confer with General Dodge respecting a council to settle terms of peace. Whilst there were a few collisions afterward with scattered bands the majority of the Sioux, including all the principal chiefs, were anxious for a final settlement. On February 2, 1866, it was agreed that a council should be held at Fort Laramie on the 30th of the following June for a full adjustment of all unsettled questions. Early in March Red Cloud of the Sioux, while *en route* to Laramie, sent couriers to General Dodge to ask permission for the northern Cheyennes and Arapahoes to join the Sioux in the peace council. The Indian war was now ended, and the Sioux went off on a hunt with the understanding that they were to return to Laramie in time for the council. All that now remained to be done by the military authorities was to prepare the way for the Indian council at Fort Laramie, and reduce the number of troops, serving on the plains, to a peace footing.

It was said by General Fuller, who knew the man he was talking about, that "he (Dodge) was a man true to his word, merciful to those under him, and hating nothing so much as idleness." These qualities were signally illustrated in his service on the plains. He was ready to take all the risks and endure all the hardships and deprivations of the soldier who carried the musket or wore the sabre. And he did more. Whilst he was busy with the thousand details necessary to supplying and directing all the detached bodies of troops scattered over this vast field of operations, guarding long lines of travel, fighting battles, and establishing military posts, *he occupied his spare time* in making a map of the territory included in his command. It showed the political subdivisions of these Territories, the streams and their courses, the mountains and their trend, the fertile valleys and the arid plains, the lines of travel, the stage stations, and the military posts. This required patient toil and the comprehensive knowledge acquired by personal exploration.

He also recommended the establishment of permanent military posts along the lines which he foresaw would be the highways of commerce and travel; and from personal observation indicated the points at which they should be located. These comprised the Platte route, to-day the line of the Union Pacific Railroad; the old Smoky Hill route, to-day the railway line from the Missouri to Denver; the Fort Laramie and Yellowstone route, a natural highway from Fort Laramie to Montana; and also the Powder river route, from Denver north to a junction with the Platte route. All this being done, and the Indian war being over, on May 1, A. D. 1866, he resigned his commission as Major-General of Volunteers in the United States Army.

Although this closes his military history it is by no means the end of his career. During the long years of the war, and of his subsequent command upon the plains, the faith in the future of this vast region, which had led him by the force of his own intense nature to devote many months to its exploration, while a private citizen at Council Bluffs, never forsook him.

"To be connected with the giant enterprise of building a railway to the Pacific was still the dream of his ambition. On leaving the army he did not stop to be boomed and banqueted for the service he had rendered in aiding to conquer the Rebellion, but immediately enlisted to aid in conquering the wilderness which separated the Mississippi valley and the Pacific coast. He became the Chief Engineer of the Union Pacific Railroad, and a chief promoter of the great system of railways which to-day unites all sections of the country with the Pacific States. Should time and other engagements permit, the writer proposes at some future day to trace the career of General Dodge as a railroad engineer and railroad builder.

PRAIRIE CHICKENS.

BY HAMLIN GARLAND.

From brown-plowed hillocks,
 In early red morning,
 They woke the tardy sower with this cheerful cry;
 A mellow boom and whoop
 That held a warning—
 A song that brought the seed-time very nigh,
 The circling, splendid anthem
 Of their greeting
 Ran like the morning beating of a hundred mellow drums—
 Boom, boom, boom!
 Each hillock kept repeating,
 Like cannon answering cannon when the golden sunset comes.
 They drum no more—
 Those splendid, spring-time pickets!
 The sweep of share and sickle has thrust them from the hills.
 They have scattered from the meadow
 Like the partridge in the thickets;
 They have perished from the sportsman, who kills, and kills, and kills!
 Often now,
 When seated at my writing,
 I lay my pencil down and fall to dreaming still
 Of the stern, hard days,
 Of the old-time Iowa seeding,
 When the prairie chickens woke me with their war-dance on the hill.

Chicago, Ill.

—*New York Independent, Oct. 5, 1893.*

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